**The Bhagavad Gita**

**What is it?**

* The Bhagavad Gita is an epic, which is considered a highly revered scripture of Hinduism. It describes Arjuna as he is put to the moral test in the midst of a battle between parts of his family, his teachers, etc. He does not want to kill them rather he decides to throw down his bow and not fight.

**The Moral Test**

Arjuna = warrior

Lord Krishna = God like figure, avatar of Vishnu

**Arjuna’s Argument**

* POINT 1: Fighting causes sinful reactions

**Lord Krishna’s Rebuttal**

* POINT 1: We should not mourn for the living and the dead
  + Our being (soul) is transcendental and cannot be killed. There is a difference between our material body and our eternal soul; therefore we should not grieve for beings.
* POINT 2: As a warrior, it is your duty to “kill” these beings
  + Disgrace in not following your duty is worse than death and since we are eternal, it would be more sinful to disregard your duty.
* POINT 3: Emphasis on action and not results, we should free ourselves from attachment to results and focus on the intelligence gained from action because intelligence is superior to action itself
  + This leads us to find peace in work and action and not be concerned with results thus there is no good v. evil or life v. death

**Arjuna’s Objection**

* POINT 1: If knowledge is greater than action why should we fight?

**Lord Krishna’s Response**

* POINT 1: Two paths to wisdom
  + Renounce the material world and pursue contemplation
  + Karma and Yoga are how wisdom through action in the material world is gained
* POINT 2: You cannot gain wisdom from avoiding action since every creature is naturally inclined to act which leads to detachment from the material world
* POINT 3: You must be selfless and pursue spiritual wisdom